



STATE OF MARYLAND

## Community Health Resources Commission

45 Calvert Street, Room 336 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Larry Hogan, Governor; Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Elizabeth Chung, Chair; Mark Luckner, Executive Director

May 6, 2020

### Community Health Resources Commission Impact Report

#### **Background**

The Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 2005 to expand access to health care in underserved communities. The demand for grants exceeds the available budget, with approximately 17% of requests being funded.<sup>1</sup> Since 2006, the CHRC has awarded 266 grants that:

- total \$77.8 million;
- support programs in every jurisdiction in the state; and
- serve approximately 488,000 low-income individuals with complex health and social service needs.

#### **Steward of Public Resources**

Four staff members oversee the rigorous process to identify, research, and analyze innovative projects to present to the 11 Commissioners for their approval. All requests are carefully evaluated, and grantees (currently 79 open grants = \$18.9 million) are monitored and held accountable for their performance.

#### **Strategic priorities: Innovation; Sustainability; and Cost-Saving**

Three projects illustrate CHRC's approach to addressing its priorities:

- **Way Station** is an outpatient mental health provider that received a two-year grant (\$170,000) for a pilot program to integrate primary and behavioral health care. An additional \$1 million from private sources helped to lay the groundwork for the launch of the Maryland Department of Health's Medicaid Behavioral Health Home Initiative. There are now 83 health homes in Maryland.
- **Calvert County Health Department** received a three-year grant (\$600,000) to support "Project Phoenix," to provide substance use treatment services, including medications, and address the social determinants of health impacting individuals with substance use disorders. The average number of ED visits dropped more than 70%, from 1.57 visits per participant to 0.45 visits per participant. With the reductions in avoidable hospital costs, Calvert Memorial Hospital is providing financial support for implementation of the program.
- **Esperanza Center**, a free clinic in Baltimore, received a two-year grant (\$100,000) to expand service capacity. The project outcomes included essential health services for more than 5,315 individuals and cost saving/avoided charges of \$2.3 million.

#### **Improving Health Outcomes: Reducing chronic disease and infant mortality**

- **Shepherd's Clinic** received a two-year (\$105,000) grant to support its diabetes self-management program, providing services to 390 pre-diabetic and diabetic patients. Among patients who

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<sup>1</sup> Grants Requested = \$412.3 million; Grants Funded = \$71.3 million

participated in diabetes self-management education, regular clinical measurements indicated that 66% lost weight and 70% had a reduced A1C. Among patients who participated in diabetes prevention counseling, just one became diabetic.

- **Chinese Culture and Community Services Center** received a three-year (\$200,000) grant to support the relocation and expansion of the clinic in Gaithersburg. The clinic provides primary care, case management, prescription assistance, lab testing, and free screening and vaccinations for Hepatitis B to individuals facing complex health and social needs. At the end of the second year of the grant, 35% of those diagnosed with diabetes had an A1C below 7, and 60% of individuals diagnosed with hypertension had a blood pressure of less than 140/90.
- **Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care, Inc.** received a two-year (\$300,000) grant to increase access to prenatal care and expand its women's health program to improve birth outcomes and reduce infant mortality in Prince George's County. The grant served 3,000 women, and the percentage of women in the program receiving prenatal care in the first trimester increased from a baseline of 63.6% to 74%. Those in the program delivering low-birth weight babies (2,500 grams or less) was 5% (the rate in Prince George's County is 9.1%, and the state is 8.6%).

### ***Public-Private Partnerships: Leveraging Resources to Maximize Impact on Individuals and Communities***

The \$77.8 million in grants made by CHRC have been leveraged with an **additional** \$28.4 million, the bulk of which (\$23.3 million) comes from private and local sources. These programs, in every corner of the state, have had an impact on many levels including: improving children's access to health and social services; expanding behavioral health programs; building the capacity of small community-based organizations; and lowering hospital costs to support Maryland's unique delivery system transformation.

- **Family Services, Inc., Thriving Germantown** increased access to health and social support services at a Title I elementary school with a \$250,000 CHRC grant and \$2,014,832 in private and local funding.
- **La Clinica del Pueblo** utilized a \$300,000 grant and leveraged \$857,000 of additional resources to open a new federally qualified health center site in Hyattsville.
- **Charles County Health Department** combined a \$400,000 grant with an additional \$150,000 from Charles Regional Medical Center to support a new Mobile Integrated Health program to address utilization of EMS and ED services in Charles County.
- **Access Carroll** received three grants totaling \$525,000 and leveraged \$841,708 in additional funding to support their somatic, dental, and behavioral health services, all in one location.
- **West Cecil Health Center** increased its primary care capacity in Cecil and Harford Counties by leveraging a \$480,000 grant with \$871,546 from Upper Chesapeake Union Hospital to open a new site in Havre de Grace.

**For further information, visit the Website at <https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/Home.aspx>.**